



Important News about the 2018-19 Report Card

Once again, the South Dakota Department of Education will use SD-STARS to make Report Card data available to school districts before it is released to the public.

As a reminder, there are two versions of the Report Card: private and public. The private Report Card can be found internally in SD-STARS. It contains personally identifiable information via student rosters and unsuppressed aggregate data in tables and graphs that must not be released to the public. The public Report Card contains information that can be freely shared with the public because the data in it are suppressed for small group size and do not contain student-level data, making it Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act-compliant.

To prepare, here are a few things for districts to know about the Report Card:

- This year, there will be only ONE opportunity to appeal Report Card data (as opposed to “pre-appeal” and “appeal” windows). This opportunity will come prior to the release of the public Report Card, which is tentatively set for Sept. 16. It is critical that your team takes time to review data and make any appeals during that single appeal window, which is tentatively set for Aug. 12-23.
- The department’s Accountability Report Card team made changes to the Report Card based on district feedback and Every Student Succeeds Act requirements. From rosters to better functionality to new dashboards, district users will see these enhancements throughout the private Report Card.

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IRB approval renewed

In May, the IRB, or Institutional Review Board, at South Dakota State University reviewed the policies and procedures of SD-STARS and granted an extension of its IRB approval for another year.

SD-STARS has been IRB-approved since June 2015. IRBs are usually located at universities and research centers. They help minimize risks associated with human subject research, thereby protecting the people whose data are used. Even though SD-STARS is not a research project, the South Dakota Department of Education seeks IRB approval to ensure that we are doing what is necessary to protect the data in SD-STARS and to maintain eligibility for future federal grants.

Report Card Informational Webinars

The department will share more information about the Report Card via a webinar for districts that will be offered in early August.

Tuesday, Aug. 6	This webinar begins at 10:30 a.m. CT.
Registration: https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12669	

About Us

South Dakota STARS Connections is a bi-monthly publication for South Dakota administrators and teachers, produced by the South Dakota Department of Education. This publication is intended to communicate news and events regarding the South Dakota Student Teacher Accountability and Reporting System (SD-STARS), our State-wide Longitudinal Data System. To view an online edition of this newsletter, go to doe.sd.gov/publications.aspx. Email story ideas or questions to STARSHelp@state.sd.us

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2018-19 Accountability Timeline

August 5

Districts have access to their private Report Card data in SD-STARS and begin the process of reviewing and validating their data.

August 12-23

Districts can make appeals related to their Report Card data. This is the **ONLY** appeal window.

August 23

Appeal window closes at 5 p.m. CT.

September 13

Department makes final decisions on appeals.

September 16

- Department shares state-level data from 2018-19 Report Card at South Dakota Board of Education Standards meeting.
- Press release issued.
- Public Report Card goes "live" with state-, district-, and school-level data.



New data in SD-STARS

Over the summer, the SD-STARS team loaded new data for users.

In July, all state assessments were loaded into SD-STARS, including the following:

- South Dakota English Language Arts and Math Assessments (Smarter Balanced)
- South Dakota English Language Arts and Math Alternate Assessments (MSAA)
- ACCESS 2.0 (for English learners)
- ACCESS Alt
- South Dakota Science Assessment
- South Dakota Science Alternate Assessment

Data for these tests are now available in SD-STARS reports.

Other data were also loaded over the summer, including spring local assessment scores, ACT scores, and dual credit program data. Spring 2019 data for DIBELS and AIMSweb were loaded earlier in the summer and are available in the local assessment reports found in SD-STARS. June's ACT data file, which contains tests taken up to April 2019, was also loaded. You can access these data in the ACT Stoplight report. The next ACT data file is expected in early September. Dual credit fall semester data can also be accessed in the four dual credit reports in SD-STARS. Spring semester data should be finished in late August, and summer semester data will be loaded in October.

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The department will also be at the ASBSD/SASD Joint Convention Aug. 8. We will have a space in the Exhibit Hall where administrators and others can informally learn more about the Report Card. There will not be any formal presentations. Rather, you can reserve a time when a

department staff member can offer one-on-one support or just drop in to get answers to any questions you may have.

Districts can access the private Report Card via SD-STARS on Aug. 5. Only people with accountability permissions will be able to access the private Report Card. There are two levels of

accountability permissions: school or district. Contact your district's STARS Account Manager to ensure you have appropriate access to the private Report Card on Aug. 5. STARS Account Managers who have questions or problems with creating accounts, approving accounts, or assigning permissions should contact STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

Update on data use course

This summer, 56 educators participated in the Fundamentals of Data Use for Educators course, for which they earned one graduate credit. The course was a collaboration between the department and the University of South Dakota, giving educators an opportunity to analyze reports and create plans based on the information they learned in the process. Instructor Brad Steckelberg said, "This course gave educators an opportunity to increase their data analysis skills in a simple and approachable way." Participants used an inquiry process to find answers to data-related questions. They then created plans based on what they learned in their data analysis. One participant said, "[the course] made data analysis not so scary for me!" Another participant said, "I look forward to using...data to improve the opportunities for my students."

If your district would like a member of the SD-STARS team to provide training on data analysis, contact us at STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

Proactive admissions, college readiness coursework

This fall, the South Dakota Department of Education will again use SD-STARS for two initiatives: proactive admissions and college readiness coursework.

Proactive Admissions - Qualifying South Dakota public high school seniors will receive a letter from the department alerting them that they have met criteria for guaranteed general acceptance into the state's six public universities and four technical institutes.

College Readiness Coursework - Qualifying South Dakota public high school seniors will receive a letter from the department alerting them that they will need to take remedial courses if they attend the state's public postsecondary institutions and that the students can participate in college readiness coursework to avoid this remedial coursework.

Letters for both programs will be sent in October.

New and enhanced SD-STARS reports

Users will notice changes as they utilize SD-STARS reports this fall. Reports were updated to include the new state science assessment and the alternate state science assessment. There were also a couple of clean-up enhancements to display more accurate data. There is also a new report available: Dual Credit – Student Level List.

South Dakota Science Assessment/South Dakota Science Alternate Assessment

The new state science assessment is now displayed in the following reports: Student Achievement Report (formerly called Student Achievement Roster), Achievement Cut Score, Assessment Detail Results, Student Longitudinal Achievement, Assessment Feedback Report, ACCESS Test Takers, and McKinney-Vento Student Count. Users will notice a new choice in the “Assessment” parameter called “Science/Science Alt.” For the new state science assessment, there will be no strand data or standard errors displayed.

These reports were also updated to include some general enhancements. The SD-STARS team made these general enhancements to ensure the various reports in SD-STARS look alike and behave similarly. By standardizing language, colors, and features across reports, the SD-STARS team hopes that users find the reports familiar and gain confidence in using them. The Student Achievement Roster was also renamed to Student Achievement Report. This was done to further differentiate this report from data accessed through the Accountability Report

Card. It’s important to remember that data accessed through the Report Card will differ from data displayed in the reports found under the “Reports” tab.

Special Education Exiter

The Special Education Exiter report was enhanced for two reasons. The first is to display more accurate primary mailing addresses. The second was to allow display of up to two primary mailing addresses for each student. It’s important to note, for Infinite Campus District Edition, the addresses require the student to have an active membership in a household, active relationships with the household guardian who has “mailing” checkbox marked, and a primary address marked “mailing” in the household. For districts that use Skyward, students need to be in a family in which “Receives Report Cards” is checked. General enhancements were also made to this report.

Early Warning

The “Low HS Cum. GPA” flag for the Early Warning report was enhanced to display the GPA found under the Enrollment tab in Infinite Campus State Edition. Prior to this enhancement, the SD-STARS team found that the GPA that was displaying was only accurate for some districts. The department worked to enhance Infinite Campus to display the unweighted cumulative GPA under a student’s Enrollment tab. Then the Early Warning report was updated to display this new source for GPA.

This change should make the “Low HS Cum. GPA” flag accurate for all districts.

Dual Credit – Student Level List

The new Dual Credit – Student Level List shows dual credit information at the student level. This list can be used to understand the counts reported in the aggregate Dual Credit reports contained in SD-STARS. The student list will allow users to verify their data are accurate compared to what the Board of Regents and technical institutes gather.

Just like the aggregate reports, users can filter by dual credit term, institution type, institution, course subject, course code and demographics such as grade level, race, and gender. The report displays a student list and shows the student’s district and school as well as student demographics. The report also displays dual credit information, such as term, institution where the course was taken, course name, grade, and a flag indicating whether the grade was passing. A column also indicates if a student withdrew from the course.

If you have any questions or feedback, please contact STARSHelp@state.sd.us.



Ask the Experts

I am a STARS Account Manager. What do I need to do to be ready for the beginning of the school year?

Note: Step-by-step instructions, screenshots, and a webinar recording explaining the following tasks are available in the SD-STARS Training Center, under the STARS Account Manager Resources section.

The new school year is an excellent time for STARS Account Managers in each district to maintain existing accounts and approve new users. Specifically, SAMs will want to review accounts for newly hired staff members and assign permissions to all members of the district's accountability team.

Approve accounts for new staff

As the 2019-20 school year begins, SAMs will want to approve user accounts for any newly hired staff members in their district. SD-STARS accounts directly tie to the K-12 Data Center and to Infinite Campus.

A common error occurs in Infinite Campus: Often new staff are missing email addresses, job titles, or start dates. For assistance setting up accounts or mapping certain job titles to permission levels, please contact STARSHelp@state.sd.us. For more hands-on help, attend one of our regional trainings for SAMs in October. See article elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.

Assigning accountability permission

As district users prepare for the 2018-19 Accountability Report Card, SAMs will need to assign the accountability permission. This permission is available for both the district and school level. The district-level permission should be assigned when a user needs to view reports which include student lists for the entire district. If a school-level user (such as a principal) needs to see a student list for only their school, then assigning the school-level accountability permission would be appropriate. The accountability permission is a manual permission and will need to be managed by the SAM.

Interested in becoming a STARS Certified Trainer?

The SD-STARS team is searching for more STARS Certified Trainers for the 2019-20 school year. The new SCT group will convene for the first time during a summer workshop, to be held in Pierre Aug. 13, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

For more information, contact STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

Image 1

Choosing district-level or school-level permissions.

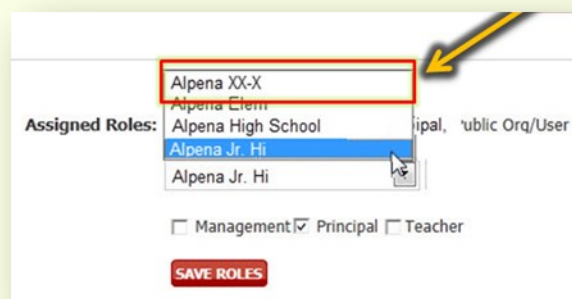
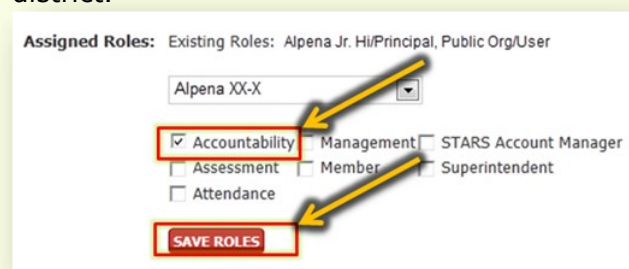


Image 2

Selecting Accountability permissions in a district.



Will local assessment data be loaded into SD-STARS?

No. In prior years, districts that use the following assessments and vendors had the option of seeing their local assessment data in SD-STARS reports:

- DIBELS Next from Acadience Learning
- DIBELS Next from DIBELS University of Oregon
- AIMSweb 1.0 from Pearson

However, beginning in the 2019-20 school year, local assessment data will no longer be included in SD-STARS. If you have any questions, please see the April 2019 newsletter for more information or contact STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

Upcoming webinars

A new school year brings with it new opportunities to gain knowledge and engage with the SD-STARS team through our topical webinars! Check out the following upcoming trainings available through Skype:

Aug. 28, 2:30-3:30 p.m. CT

SD-STARS for beginners – Are you new to SD-STARS? Do you need a refresher? Join us as we go over the basics!

Registration: <https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12652>

Sept. 25, 2:30-3:30 p.m. CT

Assessment reports in SD-STARS
(including data from the SD Science Assessment!)

Registration: <https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12653>



STARS Certified Trainers

STARS Certified Trainers have been trained by Department of Education staff on SD-STARS and are kept up-to-date on system developments and new reports. Districts can contact trainers to request training at the district's cost.

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SD-STARS to host regional training sessions this fall

This fall, the SD-STARS team will provide trainings for district users of SD-STARS. Morning and afternoon sessions will be offered in three locations throughout the state. Find more information and register at GoSignMeUp. Questions? Please contact STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

Date	Time	Description	Location
Tuesday, Oct. 29	8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. MT	SD-STARS training for SAMs	Rapid City
Register: https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12682			
Tuesday, Oct. 29	1 – 4 p.m. MT	SD-STARS training for district users	Rapid City
Register: https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12683			
Tuesday, Nov. 5	8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. CT	SD-STARS training for SAMs	Aberdeen
Register: https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12685			
Tuesday, Nov. 5	1 – 4 p.m. CT	SD-STARS training for district users	Aberdeen
Register: https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12686			
Monday, Nov. 7	8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. CT	SD-STARS training for SAMs	Sioux Falls
Register: https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12677			
Monday, Nov. 7	1 – 4 p.m. CT	SD-STARS training for district users	Sioux Falls
Register: https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12678			